


Online Gambling

☒ Blackjack ☐ Slot Machines ☐ Roulette ☐ Video Poker

Play Now?

CASINO
ON NET

Your child
can be
Earth's
best friend 



News
Business
Sports
Local
Health
Technology
Living • Travel
TV News
Opinions
Weather
Shop@MSNBC
MSN.com

News
ENVIRONMENT 

Report: Wetlands program flawed

Army Corps of Engineer criticized by congressional auditors

REUTERS 

WASHINGTON, May 31 — Army Corps of Engineer programs to stem wetlands losses are having uncertain results with the agency unable to support many claims, according to a new report by congressional investigators.

[E-MAIL THIS !\[\]\(68c803856f5d0e2869157394e52652f1_img.jpg\)](#) [COMPLETE STORY !\[\]\(e46bd8df68d5eebf9040942667ff08d4_img.jpg\)](#)

ADVERTISING ON MSNBC

ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN developers and third parties to mitigate the loss of wetlands is not working as planned, the the General Accounting Office reported Wednesday.

One main issue is a type of wetlands mitigation called “in-lieu-fee” mitigation, in which a third party collects fees from developers forced to offset wetland losses and spends it on various wetland restoration projects.

The report said Corps officials claimed that in 11 of its 17 districts with the in-lieu option, the number of wetland acres restored, created or preserved offset or exceeded the number adversely impacted.

Advertisement



But the GAO said “data submitted by over half of those districts did not support these claims.”

The report said mitigation efforts were also not assessed for ecological success, leaving some Corps districts to “assume success as soon as the developer pays a fee to an in-lieu organization even if no mitigation has been performed.”

The GAO called on the Environmental Protection

Environment news

Keep up with environment news: MSNBC's special section is updated regularly

- [Click here to bookmark Environment News](#)

Agency to develop ecological success benchmarks to ensure wetland losses are actually being successfully mitigated.

The National Wildlife Federation seized on the GAO findings as evidence of

problems with Corps management practices.

“Today’s GAO report uncovers extremely questionable management by the Corps of these third-party wetlands mitigation arrangements,” the wilderness group said.

Earth matters

Join the conversation

- [Environmental Issues Discussion Board](#)

The group said problems included a lack of record-keeping and monitoring, no ecological success criteria and confusion

among Corps districts as to what party is legally and financially responsible for the success of mitigation efforts.

Corps officials were not immediately available to comment.

Provisions in the Clean Water Act demand protection and replacement for wetlands, which are disappearing due to the impact of development and agricultural expansion.

SPECIAL REPORT [MSNBC environment coverage](#)

© 2001 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved.
 Republication or redistribution of Reuters content is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters.

ENVIRONMENT**STORY** Battle over Endangered Species Act**STORY** Ruling favors Northwest salmon**STORY** Report: Wetlands program flawed**STORY** Watch as the polluted world turns**HOME** [MSNBC Cover Page](#)**SPECIAL REPORT** "Environment" - Complete coverage**MSNBC VIEWERS' TOP 10**

Would you recommend this story to other viewers?

not at all **1** - **2** - **3** - **4** - **5** - **6** - **7** highly**BACK TO TOP** ↗

MSNBC is optimized for

- Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Windows Media Player

- [MSNBC Terms, Conditions and Privacy](#) © 2001

[Cover](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Local News](#) | [Health](#) | [Technology](#) | [Living & Travel](#)
[TV News](#) | [Opinions](#) | [Weather](#) | [Comics](#)

[Information Center](#) | [Help](#) | [News Tools](#) | [Write Us](#) | [Terms & Conditions & Privacy](#)

[Find](#) [Help](#) [NewsTools](#) [Write Us](#)